

The resolution (S. Res. 86) was agreed to.

The preamble was agreed to.

(The resolution, with its preamble, is printed in today's RECORD under "Submitted Resolutions.")

APPOINTMENTS

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Chair, on behalf of the President of the Senate, pursuant to Public Law 106-286, appoints the following Member to serve on the Congressional Executive Commission on the People's Republic of China: the Honorable MARCO RUBIO of Florida.

The Chair, on behalf of the President of the Senate, pursuant to Public Law 85-874, as amended, appoints the following individual to the Board of Trustees of the John F. Kennedy Center for the Performing Arts: the Honorable ROY BLUNT of Missouri.

The Chair, on behalf of the Democratic leader, pursuant to Public Law 96-114, as amended, appoints the following individual to the Congressional Award Board: the Honorable JOE MANCHIN of West Virginia.

ORDERS FOR THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 26, 2015

Mr. MCCONNELL. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that when the Senate completes its business today, it adjourn until 11 a.m., Thursday, February 26; that following the prayer and pledge, the morning hour be deemed expired, the Journal of proceedings be approved to date, and the time for the two leaders be reserved for their use later in the day; that following leader remarks, the Senate then resume consideration of the motion to proceed to H.R. 240 postcloture, and all time during the adjournment or recess of the Senate count against postcloture time.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

ORDER FOR ADJOURNMENT

Mr. MCCONNELL. If there is no further business to come before the Senate, I ask unanimous consent that it stand adjourned under the previous order, following the remarks of Senator WHITEHOUSE for up to 15 minutes.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

Mr. MCCONNELL. I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

Mr. WHITEHOUSE. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

CLIMATE CHANGE

Mr. WHITEHOUSE. Mr. President, I am here for the 90th time to urge my

colleagues in the Senate to take action on climate change. The science is clearly worthy of our trust, and it is indeed time to wake up.

The human contribution to climate change is no longer up for legitimate debate. We know that carbon pollution accumulates in the atmosphere. We know that carbon dioxide traps the sun's heat. We have actually known that since Abraham Lincoln was President. We know that the atmosphere and the oceans are heating up. We can measure that.

Ocean acidification and sea level rise are also measurable, and they are caused by carbon pollution. These risks to our environment, to our health, to our economy, and to our national security are every week more apparent.

News this week from New York City was that an advisory panel of scientists, engineers, and risk management experts just reported that the sea level rise along that city's shoreline—approximately 12 inches since 1900—may have expanded Superstorm Sandy's flood area by as much as 25 square miles, flooding the homes of some 80,000 people. That is pretty real.

The report's prognosis for the future puts the city in pretty deep water. New York City expects its local sea levels to rise by 11 to 21 inches more by 2050 and as much as 6 feet by 2100.

When he was mayor, Michael Bloomberg began in the wake of Hurricane Sandy an ambitious plan to shore up New York with levees, with storm barriers, and with other coastal defenses to make that great city more resilient in the face of rising seas. That plan is estimated to cost nearly \$20 billion to fortify just one city, albeit a great one—New York City—against rising seas.

Let's look south to another major American metropolitan area, Miami-Fort Lauderdale, which also faces daunting projections of rising sea levels.

This map I have in the Chamber shows 3 feet of sea level rise in Miami-Dade County. This is before. This is after. As we can see, they have lost acres. All of this back to the coast is gone, acre upon acre of that city. This nuclear power station right here, Turkey Point, and this sewage treatment plant which serves that municipal area have both become islands.

I visited Florida last year to hear firsthand about the threats that climate change poses to the Sunshine State. I met Glenn Landers, a senior engineer at the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Everglades Division. He has worked on water resources and restoration projects in Florida for nearly 20 years. This is the map he used to show me what just 2 feet of sea level rise would mean for South Florida. There is a lot less of it.

Like New York, they have measured almost 1 foot of sea level rise in South Florida in the last 100 years. And like New York, the Southeast Florida Regional Climate Compact—which is a bi-

partisan coalition of four South Florida counties—once we get away from this building, it turns out this can actually be a bipartisan issue; that cloud of special interest money that wraps the Congress isn't as apparent when you get to Florida counties. That bipartisan coalition predicts, like New York, again, continued sea level rise. Indeed, the waters around southeast Florida could surge up to another 2 feet in less than 50 years. As we can see, most of the iconic Everglades—which is the largest tract of wilderness east of the Rocky Mountains and home to some of the most rare and endangered species in America—will be under seawater.

Now, there is some resemblance between New York and Florida in the threat of sea level rise. But the resemblance to New York diverges when we look at some of the unique features of the Florida peninsula.

First is its low elevation. Miami is just 6 feet above sea level. Six feet of sea level rise goes a long way.

Second, southern Florida, as the Army Corps of Engineers constantly attests, rests on porous limestone. In New York, levees and dams can be built that will hold the ocean back. They can fortify New York City and wall it in like Holland. In Miami, they would be building those structures on a geological sponge. The rising water will just seep right under. And even in the higher areas that might still stay dry, saltwater will infiltrate the underground drinking water.

Of all the people and all the homes in the Nation at risk from rising seas, an estimated 40 percent are in the State of Florida. The Risky Business Project estimates that between \$127 billion and \$150 billion worth of property in Florida will be under the mean high tide by 2050. You might want to be careful where you buy in Florida these days if you plan to be around a while.

If we take into account damage from coastal storms, Florida could face an additional \$4 billion in damage per year.

Luckily, Florida is home to a number of the country's leading research institutions. Scientific experts at Florida universities are actively researching and trying to plan for the State's changing climate.

Professor Harold Wanless of the University of Miami puts it pretty bluntly:

Everyone wants a nice happy ending. But that's not reality. We're in for it. We have really done a job warming our ocean, and it's going to pay us back.

The Florida Climate Institute is a network of universities and public organizations that provides Florida policymakers and businesses with reliable, region-specific, factual information. The group includes the University of Florida, Florida State, the University of Miami, Florida A&M, the University of Central Florida, Florida Atlantic University, the University of South Florida, and Florida International University.